

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01 /094 W
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O R 172347Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2817
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0804

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: POSSIBLE EARLY MEETING ON SYG'S
REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: A) USUN 768 B) USUN 771 C) USUN 788 (NOTAL)

1. DURING SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS MARCH 15 IT WAS
AGREED SYG'S REPORT WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED BEFORE RHODESIAN
SANCTIONS AND QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, OR POSSIBLY BEFORE
BENIN ITEM. THIS SCHEDULING WAS SUGGESTED BY NONALIGNED
COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO INDICATED EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES
AGREED TO SUCH TIME FRAME. SUBSEQUENT TO SC CONSULTATIONS,
EGYPTIAN MISSION DELIVERED ON MARCH 15 BRIEF NOTE TO SC
PRESIDENT (YOUNG) REFERRING TO NEED TO HOLDING MEETING "AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE." EGYPTIANS EXPLAINED THAT "AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE" MEANT QUITE LITERALLY NOT AN EMERGENCY MEETING
WITH GREAT URGENCY BUT AS SOON AS SC AGENDA WOULD ALLOW.
EGYPTIAN NOTE WAS INTERPRETED BY MOST COUNCIL MEMBERS
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AS A SIGNAL FROM EGYPT THAT THE SYG'S REPORT SHOULD NOT
BE SIDETRACKED.

2. IT OCCURS TO US THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES
IN GOING ALONG WITH AN SC DEBATE ON THE REPORT BEFORE THE
END OF THE MONTH. FIRST IT WOULD SUGGEST THAT US AS
PRESIDENT IS NOT ONLY ACTING IMPARTIALLY BUT IS SEEKING

TO ACCOMMODATE REQUEST FROM NONALIGNED. SECOND, DEBATE ON SYG REPORT THIS MONTH MIGHT BE MORE EASILY LIMITED IN SCOPE AND DURATION. AT THIS POINT, ONLY LIBYA HAS ADVOCATED PUBLICLY A BROAD DEBATE ON SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND UNDER PRESSURE FROM NONALIGNED AND OTHER ARABS (EGYPT), LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY NOT INSIST ON ITS PREFERENCE. THIRD, DISTANCING A MIDDLE EAST DEBATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS MIGHT SERVE TO LIMIT THE LEVEL OF ACRIMONY AND ADVERSE IMPACT ON BOTH THE ELECTIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS.

3. AS TO TIMING, THE SYG'S DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK ON MARCH 29 WOULD SET A NATURAL CUTOFF FOR DEBATE WHICH WE COULD HOPE WOULD NOT BE RESUMED WITH HIS RETURN IN SECOND WEEK OF APRIL. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT REASON WOULD BE TANGIBLE INDICATION TO EGYPTIANS OF OUR DESIRE TO CO-ORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THEM WHILE UNDERSCORING THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN ARAB GROUP.

4. WITH RHODESIAN SANCTIONS DEBATE NOW DELAYED, (MARCH 18 WAS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TIME), QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA COULD MOVE FORWARD MARCH 21-23, RHODESIAN SANCTIONS MARCH 24 AND BENIN MARCH 25, ALLOWING US MARCH 28-29 FOR DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE SOONEST.

YOUNG

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